

Message Text

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SUBJ: WORKING VIST OF VICE-PRESIDENT TO EUROPE: WRAP-UP
FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. WY, DAY'S EVENTS AND LATE PRESS PLAY.

SUMMARY: ALL MONDALE ROME ACTIVITES FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY RECORD
NUMBER ACCREDITED PRESS. RAI TV COVERED ARRIVAL AND PRELIMI-
NARIES OF PRESIDENT LEONE DINNER LIVE; STATEMENTS BY PRIME
MINISTER ANDREOTTI AND VICE PRESIDENT ALSO MERITED LIVE COVERAGE.
AFTERNOON AND EVENING RADIO/TV NEWSCASTS FEATURED VICE PRESIDENT'S
MOVEMENTS. COMMENTS TO DATE HIGHLY FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL ASSESSMENT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT TO
ROME HAS STIRRED GREAT MEDIA INTEREST. ON-TIME ARRIVAL COVERED
LIVE BY RAI TV AND AFTERNOON RADIO TV NEWSCASTS FEATURED SCENES
OF ARRIVAL. MOST MEDIA IMPRESSED BY MONDALE/PRIME MINISTER
ANDREOTTI ENCOUNTER. LEADING POLITICAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMENTATORS APPEARED AT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TO HEAR
STATEMENTS MADE BY ANDREOTTI AND MONDALE. NEARLY 300 JOURNALISTS
ACCREDITED FOR MONDALE VISIT AND, ACCORDING TO FOREIGN OFFICE
OFFICIALS WAS LARGEST NUMBER IN RECENT YEARS FOR ANY STATE VISIT.
DUE TO MAKE-UP OF U.S. DELEGATION AND ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS IN
EXPANDED JOINT TALKS (WHICH SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE THURSDAY),
JOURNALISTS ASSUMED CENTRAL POINT OF DISCUSSION WAS ECONOMIC
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ISSUES. WHILE PRESS EXPECTED Q AND A SESSION TO FOLLOW PREPARED
STATEMENTS, ANY DISAPPOINTMENT ASSUAGED BY STATEMENTS WHICH WERE
CONSIDERED COMPREHENSIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE. COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT
LEONE GREETING F VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE PRIOR TO OFFICIAL DINNER
ALSO CARRIED LIVE ON TV. ALL EVENTS FEATURED THROUGHOUT
EVENING TV AND RADIO NEWSCAST.

2. MEDIA PLAY OF MAIN EVENTS: AFTERNOON GR-1 (SOCIALIST) RADIO NEWSCASTS REMARKED THAT "PUNCTUALITY AND DISCRETION SEEM TO BE THE TWO QUALITIES THAT CHARACTERIZE MONDALE'S VISIT TO ROME. MONDALE BRINGS WITH HIM THE NEW LINE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHICH MAY BE SUMMARIZED IN A SLOGAN: WESTERN COUNTRIES CAN SOLVE THE CRISIS ONLY (IF THEY ARE) TOGETHER.

3. SECOND RADIO NETWORK (DC-ORIENTED) CARRIED A 30-MIN AFTERNOON ANALYSIS OF US FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICY. STRESS ON THE SYMBOLIC VALUE OF MONDALE'S VISIT.

4. AFTERNOON NEWSCAST ON DC-ORIENTED TG-1, CARRIED BIOGRAPHIC FILM CLIP WITH USIS MATERIAL, STRESSED NEW RESPONSIBILITIES THAT VP HAS IN THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.

5. TG-1 EVENING NEWSCAST (MOST-WIDELY WATCHED) CARRIED 7-MINUTE COVERAGE INCLUDING ALIVE REPORT FROM THE QUIRINALE AND REPLAYS OF THE ARRIVAL AND THE MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI. COMMENTATOR STRESSED THAT THE VISIT FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC MATTERS AND BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS. HE NOTED THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE RICHARD GARDNER, AND ADDED: "MONDALE'S MISSION IS THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL POLICY INITIATIVE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. /IT IS/ A EUROPEAN CHOICE, AND AUTHENTIC RELAUNCHING OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND EUROPE AFTER THE STAGNATION OF THE KISSINGER YEARS. ON HIS ARRIVAL IN ROME, MONDALE UNDERLINED THE POINT THAT US RELATIONS WITH ITS TRADITIONAL ALLIES ARE THE CORNERSTONE OF THE POLICY OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION." THE COMMENTATOR FURTHER NOTED THAT "CARTER'S STRATEGY IS BASED UNCLASSIFIED

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ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION. THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN OUR COUNTRY, AS EVIDENCED BY MONDALE'S STATEMENT. THE US IS TRYING TO STIMULATE WEAK ECONOMIES. GERMANY AND JAPAN MUST ALSO MAKE THIS COMMITMENT... THE AMERICAN PLEDGE TO SUPPORT THE IMF LOAN WAS REAFFIRMED."

6. TG-1 FINAL NEWSCAST CARRIED A SUMMARY OF EVENTS, QUOTING VP'S STATEMENT THAT "IT WAS A FRUITFUL DAY." COMMENTATOR NOTED "HE (MONDALE) ASSURED US SOLIDARITY."

7. SOCIALIST-ORIENTED TG-2 IN ITS AFTERNOON TV NEWSCAST CARRIED REPORT ON TWO-HOUR STOPOVER AT BERLIN.

8. MAIN EVENING TG-2 TV NEWSCAST CARRIED 5-MINUTE REPORT INCLUDING LIVE COVERAGE OF VICE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LEONE.

9. WRAP-UP OF VICE-PRESIDENT'S DAY LED LATE EVENING TG-W NEWSCAST: "A DAY OF INTENSE TALKS, A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE."

COMMENTATOR (OVER PHOTOS OF EXTENDED MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI)
NOTED THAT "THIS MEETING INCLUDED THE SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE
OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ITALY. ITALY IS TRYING TO
OBTAIN AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR THE IMF LOAN."
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